

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

In the set of claims within the Application, please amend each claim as hereinafter indicated.

1. (Currently Amended) An active keyed locking system for a vehicle, said system comprising:

a base station for being mounted onboard said vehicle;

a lock assembly located within said base station and including both an infrared transmitter and an infrared receiver;

a fixed position sensor located both within said base station and about said lock assembly for statically generating a magnetic field;

a keyed actuated device comprising including a field-altering field-altering device[[,]] said keyed actuated device for altering said magnetic field when inserted into said lock assembly and placed in proximity thereto proximate to said fixed position sensor[[,]] said fixed position sensor generating a position signal indicative of the rotational position of said keyed actuated device based on the alteration of said statically-generated magnetic field; and

a controller electrically coupled to said fixed position sensor;

wherein said base station is operable to identify said keyed actuated device with said infrared transmitter and said infrared receiver, said fixed position sensor is operable to generate a position signal indicative of the rotational position of said keyed actuated device based on alteration of said magnetic field, and said controller enabling is operable to enable at least one vehicle component in response to said position signal.

2. (Currently Amended) A system as in claim 1, wherein said keyed actuated device is a key lock assembly component comprising a key insert.

3. (Currently Amended) A system as in claim 1, wherein said keyed actuated device is a key.

4. (Currently Amended) A system as in claim 3, wherein said key ~~comprises~~ includes a signal generator for generating a transmission signal.

5. (Currently Amended) A system as in claim 3₁ wherein said ~~key comprises a field-~~altering device comprises ferrous material.

6. (Currently Amended) A system as in claim 3₁ wherein said ~~[[key]]~~ field-altering device comprises a magnetic device.

7. (Currently Amended) A system as in claim 3₁ wherein said key ~~comprises~~ includes:

~~[[a]]~~ an antenna coil; and

a transponder coupled to said antenna coil ~~[[and]]~~ for generating a transmission signal.

8. (Currently Amended) A system as in claim 3₁ wherein said key includes a transponder generates for generating an authorization signal, and said controller ~~enabling is~~ operable to enable at least one said vehicle component in response to said authorization signal.

9. (Currently Amended) A system as in claim 1₁ wherein said fixed position sensor ~~is selected from~~ comprises at least one structural form selected from the group consisting of a series of magnets, a coil, a potentiometer, an encoder, an optical sensor, an infrared sensor, a hall effect sensor, a rotary variable differential transformer, a rotary variable inductance transducer, an angular position sensor, ~~[[or]]~~ and a resolver.

10. (Currently Amended) A system as in claim 1₁ wherein said fixed position sensor is coupled ~~within a~~ between said lock assembly and said base station.

11. (Currently Amended) A system as in claim 1₁ wherein ~~said controller enables a~~ at least one said vehicle component ~~selected from~~ comprises at least one structure selected from the group consisting of a vehicle accessory, an ignition, a door lock, and a vehicle system in response to said position signal.

12. (Currently Amended) A system as in claim 1₁ wherein said infrared transmitter and said infrared receiver ~~further comprising a recognition device recognizing a key and~~

~~generating are operable to generate~~ a recognition signal, ~~and wherein said controller base station enables is operable to enable~~ ~~[[the]]~~ said active keyed locking system in response to said recognition signal.

13. (Currently Amended) A system as in claim 1, wherein said keyed actuated device is ~~a lock assembly~~ key, ~~and said lock assembly comprising~~ key includes a key antenna.

14. (Currently Amended) An ~~ignition-enabling~~ ignition-enabling system for a vehicle, said system comprising:

a base station for being mounted onboard said vehicle;

a lock assembly located within said base station and including both an infrared transmitter and an infrared receiver;

a fixed position sensor located both within said base station and about said lock assembly for statically generating an electric field;

~~[[a]]~~ an identifiable key having a transponder and engageable with said lock assembly such that rotation of said key within said lock assembly enables said transponder to alter said electric field~~[[,]]~~ ~~said fixed position sensor generating a position signal indicative of the rotational position of said key based on the alteration of said statically generated electric field; and~~

a controller electrically coupled to said fixed position sensor;

wherein said base station is operable to identify said key with said infrared transmitter and said infrared receiver, said fixed position sensor is operable to generate a position signal indicative of the rotational position of said key based on alteration of said electric field, and said controller enabling is operable to enable at least one vehicle component in response to said position signal.

15. (Currently Amended) A method of enabling at least one vehicle component through use of an active keyed locking system, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) statistically statically generating a magnetic field using a fixed position sensor;

(b) rotating a ~~[[key]]~~ keyed actuated device within said magnetic field, wherein said key ~~actuating~~ keyed actuated device ~~including~~ includes a ~~field-altering~~ field-altering device;

(c) identifying said keyed actuated device with both an infrared transmitter and an infrared receiver;

(d) monitoring alterations in said ~~statically-generated~~ magnetic fields field using said fixed position sensor;

(e) determining the rotational position of said keyed actuated device using a position signal generated by said fixed position sensor, wherein said position signal ~~changing~~ changes in response to said alterations in said ~~statically-generated~~ magnetic field; and

(f) enabling ~~[[the]]~~ at least one said vehicle component in response to said position signal.

16. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 15, wherein step (c) further comprising comprises the steps of:

recognizing a key and also generating a recognition signal; and

enabling ~~[[an]]~~ said active keyed locking system in response to said recognition signal.

17. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 16, wherein step (c) further comprising comprises the step of activating a base station in response to said ~~[[key]]~~ recognition signal.

18. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 15, wherein said method further comprising comprises the steps of:

generating a first authorization signal;

generating a second authorization signal in response to said first authorization signal;

verifying said second authorization signal; and

generating said position signal in response to ~~[[said]]~~ verification of said second authorization signal.

19. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 15, wherein ~~determining position of said keyed actuated device~~ step (e) comprises the steps of:

generating at least one base signal;

altering said at least one base signal via actuation of said keyed actuated device; and

generating said position signal in response to ~~[[said]]~~ alteration of said at least one base signal.

20. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 19, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ at least one said base signal is modulated using ~~[[a]]~~ at least one modulation technique selected from ~~at least one~~ the group consisting of amplitude modulation, frequency modulation, and phase modulation.